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# Watson's Art Journal.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUG. 3, 1867

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## MUSICAL MOVEMENTS.

The Steinways are moving heaven and earth, in the vain hope to make the public believe that they gained the first Gold Medal at the Paris Exposition. This is a *rubato* movement as regards fame, but it will not go down. We have helped to open the eyes of the people to the facts of the case. This *canard* has been very short-lived. The London Fair monstrous *canard*, lasted six years, but that too has exploded; we only had to apply to it one spark of truth, and lo! it disappeared in a puff of smoke.

Mr. J. N. Pattison, who left the city on a concert tour a few weeks since, has met with a brilliant reception everywhere. His success has been unequivocal, and the Western press teems with his praise. We make a few quotations to show how highly they estimate our New York pianist.

The Buffalo Commercial remarks:

"That the praise Mr. Pattison has received has not been too strong, his performance of last night fully convinced us. He unites great power and force with extraordinary delicacy; his scales and chromatics and trills are perfect in execution, and his piano ascenders and diminuos are wonderfully neat. His musical taste seems to have taken to the poetical school, enabling him to give great color and expression to his themes."

The Buffalo Courier says:

"Mr. Pattison fairly astonished every one last evening. It would not be doing him justice to say—which is the fact—that he has made a wonderful advance in his art since we last heard him. His performance demonstrated that he has taken rank with the very first pianists of the country. We do not care to weigh our language critically when we praise him, for we are confident that the eulogy will not be overdone. His touch—in which quality is hidden the secret of power over the piano—is absolutely perfect in its precision, clearness, and above all, elasticity. In this respect, he reminded us more of Gottschalk than any other player, and he possesses the same grace which distinguishes Gottschalk in the movement of his body, so different from the angular, jerky motions of many fine performers. His execution is positively wonderful, in our opinion fully equal to that of any pianist we have ever heard. The play of his fingers in many passages absolutely dazzles the eye. For his conception of a piece, if we may judge from the composition of Liszt which he performed last evening—with which exception he played his own pieces, of course no criterion in this respect—it is thoroughly appreciative and entirely correct."

The Cleveland Daily Herald says briefly, but pointedly:—

"Mr. Pattison paid his first visit to our city last evening, we believe, but he made an impression that will last. As a pianist he has not his equal among all our native artists. There is an intelligence, finish and artistic beauty about his execution that stamps him as a master of his chosen instrument."

Mr. Pattison is at Painesville, Ohio, where a great Normal School session is being held. He is the chief piano instructor and his name has added much brilliancy to the undertaking. It is expected that he will give a series of piano recitals, interpreting the various schools, thus exemplifying to the hundreds of young ladies now studying at Painesville, the different styles of classical and modern romantic piano-forte music.

Miss Antonia Henne, who was the principal member of Mr. Pattison's concert company, met with unqualified success in all the places they visited. Her beautiful voice and simple and effective manner, were the theme of general admiration.

Madame Varian Hoffman will give a concert at Savin Rock Hotel, near New Haven, on Thursday evening, August the 8th. She will be assisted by several eminent artists.

Mr. James Pearce, Mus. Bach. Oxon., the well-known organist of Philadelphia, is now on a visit to Boston, where he has been engaged to play twice a week on the great organ at the Music Hall. He gave his first concert on Saturday afternoon, July 27th. The following was his programme on the occasion:

1. Fantasia and Fugue in G minor..... J. S. Bach.
2. Four Preludial Pieces..... E. J. Hopkins.
3. Moto Continuo—Piacidamento—Serioso—Grazioso.
4. Larghetto, from Quintette Op. 108..... Mozart.
5. Sonata No. 4..... Mendelssohn.
6. Allegro con Trio—Andante Religioso—Allegretto—Allegro Maestoso.
7. Lieder Ohne Worte..... Mendelssohn.
8. Barcarole Bk. 2—Andante Bk. 3—Volkstied Bk. 4.
9. War March of Priests (from A'halle)..... Mendelssohn.

It will be perceived that in the above programme Mendelssohn holds the leading position. John Sebastian Bach will predominate at the second, Handel at the third, and so on. He will also introduce many of the fine organ works, written by living English composers, namely: E. J. Hopkins, of Temple church, London; W. J. Best, of St. George's Hall, Liverpool; also, those of Hiles, Calkin, and others.

Mr. Alfred H. Pease is summering in Buffalo, his native city, where he is highly popular and respected. We look for some charming things from his pen in the Fall, for he is a true musician, and his leisure is always busy with thought.

A most pleasant concert was given by J. G. Barnett, Mus. Doc., last week, at Farmington. The Doctor presided at the organ, and was assisted by Miss Grace Cowles, Miss Amanda Bailey, Mrs. E. R. Risley, Miss Mary J. Miller, Miss Louise A. Campbell, Miss Emma Seamans, Mr. Edmund Cowles, Mr. John Hind, and a large chorus. Mr. Barnett presided at the organ. The selections were from the best authors, and some of Mr. Barnett's compositions were performed.

We learn with sincere pleasure that the Faculty of Yale College has just conferred the Degree of Doctor of Music, upon Mr. J. G. Barnett, of Hartford, Ct. This is the second Degree of that class conferred by that time-honored College, the first having been conferred upon Mr. Stoeckel, of New Haven, who is now Professor at the college and was one of the Board which conferred the Degree upon Mr. Barnett. The honor thus conferred upon Mr. Barnett, was partly at the solicitation of some of the most eminent musicians in this city and elsewhere, who warmly re-

cognized his ability, and his earnest services in the cause of Art. We cordially congratulate the new Musical Doctor, and are satisfied that he will wear his honor gracefully, and that it will urge him to still greater exertions in the cause which he has served so well.

## FIGHTING HARD TO HOLD THEIR GROUND.

The ground upon which the Steinways erected their reputation, was always of an unstable character—it was as unstable as the superstructure raised upon it, the material of which was reckless newspaper puffs, and now that it is falling from beneath their feet, they are fighting hard to prop it up by the same means, that is, by public statements which have no foundation in fact. They have not a shadow of right to advertise that they have the first Gold Medal of the Paris Exposition. It is everywhere stated that the medals are equal in the extent of the honorable recognition they convey; that there is no priority or difference, and it is everywhere recognized, that, in asserting and advertising that they have the first Gold Medal, that Steinway & Sons are assuming a position which they cannot sustain, that in point of fact they are advertising what is not true, for the purpose of gaining a fictitious reputation for superiority, and luring the public to buy their wares, under the false impression which said unscrupulous advertisement is intended to create. They say that in love, all is fair, but in business so loose a moral standard is hardly admissible.

The Decoration of the Legion of Honor conferred upon their successful rival Chickering—conferred upon him as announced in the official list in the *Moniteur*, as an exhibitor—sits upon their swelling chest like a huge night-mare; it is a black shadow, before, behind and beside them, and in the columns of every paper its announcement sheds a ray of light and truth upon the baseless claim which they so unscrupulously advance. The fact stares them in the face everywhere, and wriggle as they may they cannot evade it. They may waste columns of words in the hopeless endeavor to prove that the Decoration of the Legion of Honor is lying about loose in the streets of Paris, for any *gamin* to pick up—they may say that the Emperor Napoleon came to them personally and on his knees begged them to accept the Order, (which is about as probable as the other stories they have trumped up), but that they, with the noble instinct of true native born American citizens, indignantly refused it; but the fact cannot be wiped out, and the people will believe that the Decoration of the Legion of Honor, added to the Gold Medal, stamps the pianos of Chickering & Sons as the best exhibited at the Paris Exposition.

In the last *Weekly Review*, which we presume is a part of the Steinway establish-